

Remarks

New claims 51 to 61 are hereby submitted. Claims 1-50 have been cancelled.

Claims 1-24 have been cancelled in favor of new claims 51-61 which are submitted to better clarify the disclosed invention as well as eliminate unduly restricting claim elements. New claim 51 is based on page 6 lines 11 to 17 and page 7, lines 19 to 35. New claims 52 to 58 are respectively based on claims 17, 15, 19, 9, 10, 11 and 12 as originally filed. Claim 59 is based on the combination of claim 1 and claim 6 as originally filed. Claims 60 and 61 are respectively based on claim 7 and claim 8 as originally filed.

Therefore, no new matter has been added by way of this amendment.

New claim 51 has been introduced to focus on the technical features of the light path according to the present invention that emphasize its simplicity.

Claim 1 as originally filed had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Basso. With regard to newly filed claim 51, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection does not stand since Basso fails to describe most of the features of claim 51. In particular, the optical path of Basso does not comprise an optical fiber but rigid conductor means 56. Even if you admit that the conductor 56 is a means equivalent to the optical fiber, Basso fails to describe any metal coating in the area of the window 36.

Finally, the only pressure seal in Basso is around the window 36, meaning Basso fails to describe any means to equalized the pressure between the zone contained by the protective sheath (considering that the bellow is equivalent to such a protective sheath) and the area outside the outside environment.

As to the dependent claims, and the claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), it is noted that the device includes a sensor, indeed the electrometer assembly. Therefore it would

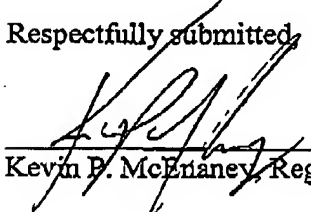
Appl. No. 10/062,162

5

certainly not have been obvious for one skilled in the art to "add" an optical measurement device as the one disclosed by Skog. In any case, the device of the invention can definitely not be described as a combination of Basso and Skog, and therefore claim 51 – and all dependent claims – is new and non-obvious.-

The Applicant believes that these amendments deal with all outstanding matters and raise no new matter issues. Applicant has elected the species identified in claims 1-24 for prosecution on the merits. Favorable reconsideration on the basis of these amendments and remarks is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin P. McEnaney, Reg. No. 46,258

April 21, 2004
Date

Schlumberger Technology Corporation
Office of Patent Counsel
200 Gillingham Lane, MD 200-9
Sugar Land, TX 77478
Telephone: 281-285-7325
Facsimile: 281-285-4232